CLAIM AMENDMENTS

1-8 (Cancelled)

9. (New) A spark plug for an internal combustion engine having at least two electrodes, in which the electrodes are formed of a first part made of a substrate material and a surface part made of a material more durable than the substrate material, wherein the surface part is fastened to the first part via an intermediate part, and that the joint between the surface part and the intermediate part is an explosion welding joint.

10. (New) A spark plug according to claim 9, wherein the surface part is formed of at least one metal of the Pt group (Pt, Pd, Ir, Rh, Ru, Os) or an alloy thereof.

11. (New) A spark plug according to claim 9, wherein the joint between the surface part and the intermediate part is essentially homogenous on the whole surface area of the of the joint.

12. (New) A spark plug according to claim 11, wherein the joint between the substrate material part of the first part and the intermediate part is a conventional melt welding joint.

13. (New) A spark plug according claim 9, wherein the material strength of the surface part perpendicular to the joint surface of it and the intermediate part is 0.05 - 2 mm.

14. (New) A method for producing a spark plug having at least two electrodes, in which the electrodes are produced from at least a first part, made of the substrate material of the spark plug, and a surface part, made of a material more durable than the substrate material, characterized by the following combination of production stages, in which

a blank is formed, comprising a surface part and an intermediate part, by joining the surface part to the intermediate part by means of explosion welding,

a part with a suitable form is separated from the blank to form the electrode of the spark plug, and

the part separated from the blank is fastened to the first part of the spark plug so that the joint is made between the said first part and the intermediate part.

15. (New) A method according to claim 14, wherein the surface part of the blank is formed of a planar piece consisting of at least one metal of the Pt group or an alloy thereof, the piece being explosion welded to the intermediate piece, also planar.

16. (New) A method according to claim 15, wherein the surface part of the blank is formed of powder consisting of at least one metal of the Pt group or an alloy thereof, the powder being simultaneously solidified and joined to the intermediate piece by means of explosion welding.